

## ASSISTANCE WITH PROJECT OPTION #1: Victorian Era



Almost a third of London lived well below the poverty line during the Victorian era. Another 16.2% were considered “moderately poor” by sociologists of the time and would never have owned a lavish ball gown or silk cravat. According to a study done by Danny Dorling from the University of Leeds, “Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* also helped open the eyes of non-fictitious Londoners to the extent of poverty in their city...”

Some of the best costumes to reflect this time period are those taken right from *A Christmas Carol*, including:

- Scrooge in a vest, coat and hat or in his night clothes (long underwear or a long nightshirt)
- Marley with his bandage around his head and chains around his waist
- Bob Cratchit in threadbare clothes and a thick white wool scarf
- The Ghost of Christmas Past with his white robe lined in flowers
- The Ghost of Christmas Present in his green robe and holly wreath on his head
- The grim "reaper-esque" Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
- Tiny Tim in knickers and a cap perhaps with his crutch

### **Mid 1800's Men's Clothing could be recreated by finding any of the following items:**

- a frock coat (knee length dark wool coat) or sack coat or any wool coat or jacket
- dark trousers or knee-length pants or knickers
- a waistcoat or vest
- square toed leather shoes or any leather shoes with dark socks
- a necktie or cravat and perhaps a wool scarf
- a top hat or derby hat or wool newsboy type hat

**Hair:** always a side part for boys



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**Mid 1800's *Women's Clothing* could be recreated by finding any of the following items:**

- a blouse with a high neck-line and puffy sleeves (the puffier the better)
- a skirt that fits snugly at the waist but is very full at the bottom and reaches practically to the floor
- any floor-length dress with a fitted waist perhaps with an apron or pinafore over the top
- lots of layers of undergarments (chemises or camisoles, stockings, petticoat(s), perhaps with hoop skirts or crinolines)
- square toed leather shoes or any leather shoes
- some form of headgear – bonnet or hat, etc.
- some sort of outerwear such as a cape, shawl, woolen scarf, etc. Cashmere wraps and shawls were first popular in the 1800's

**Hair:** Always a center part for girls – popular styles included: French braids, curly ponytails, ringlet curls pinned back with ribbons or barrettes







““What makes you take so much pains about one chalk-faced kid, when you know there are fifty boys snoozing about Common Garden every night, as you might pick and choose from?” “Because they’re of no use to me, my dear,” replied the Jew, with some confusion, “not worth the taking. Their looks convict ’em when they get into trouble, and I lose ’em all. With this boy, properly managed, my dear, I could do what I couldn’t with twenty of them.””  
Bill Sikes and Fagin in *Oliver Twist*



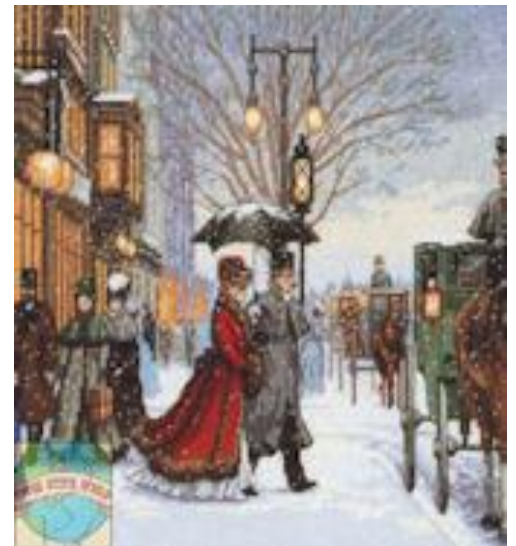
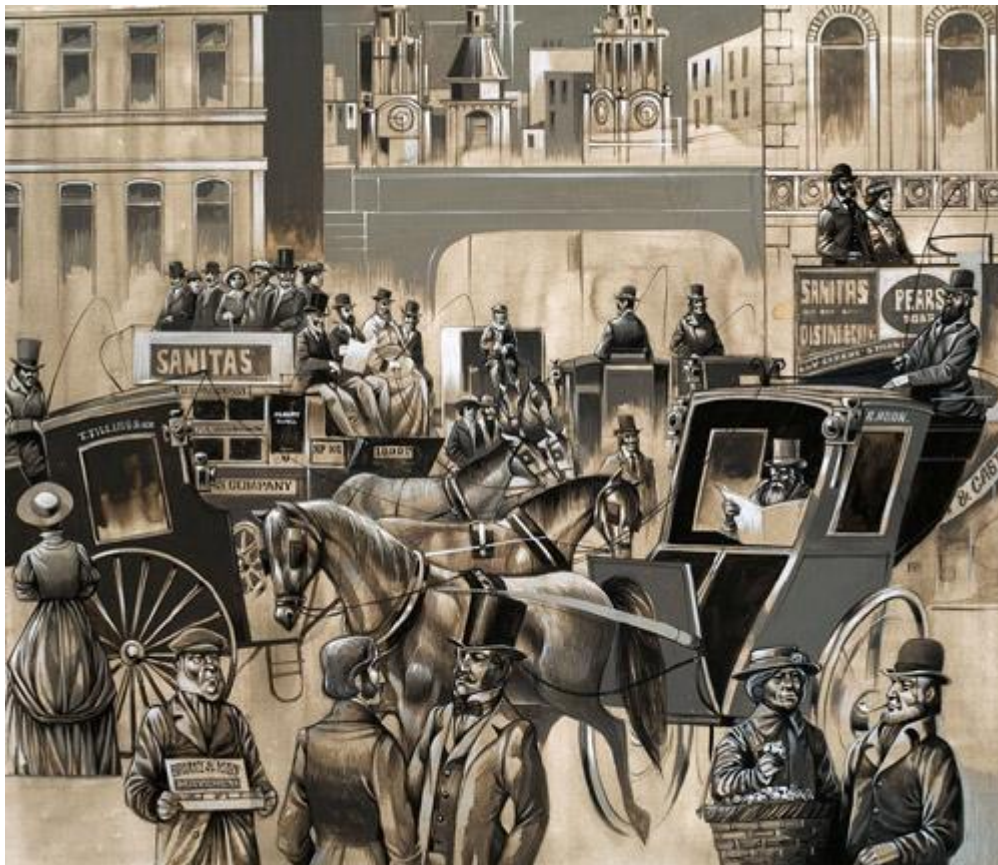
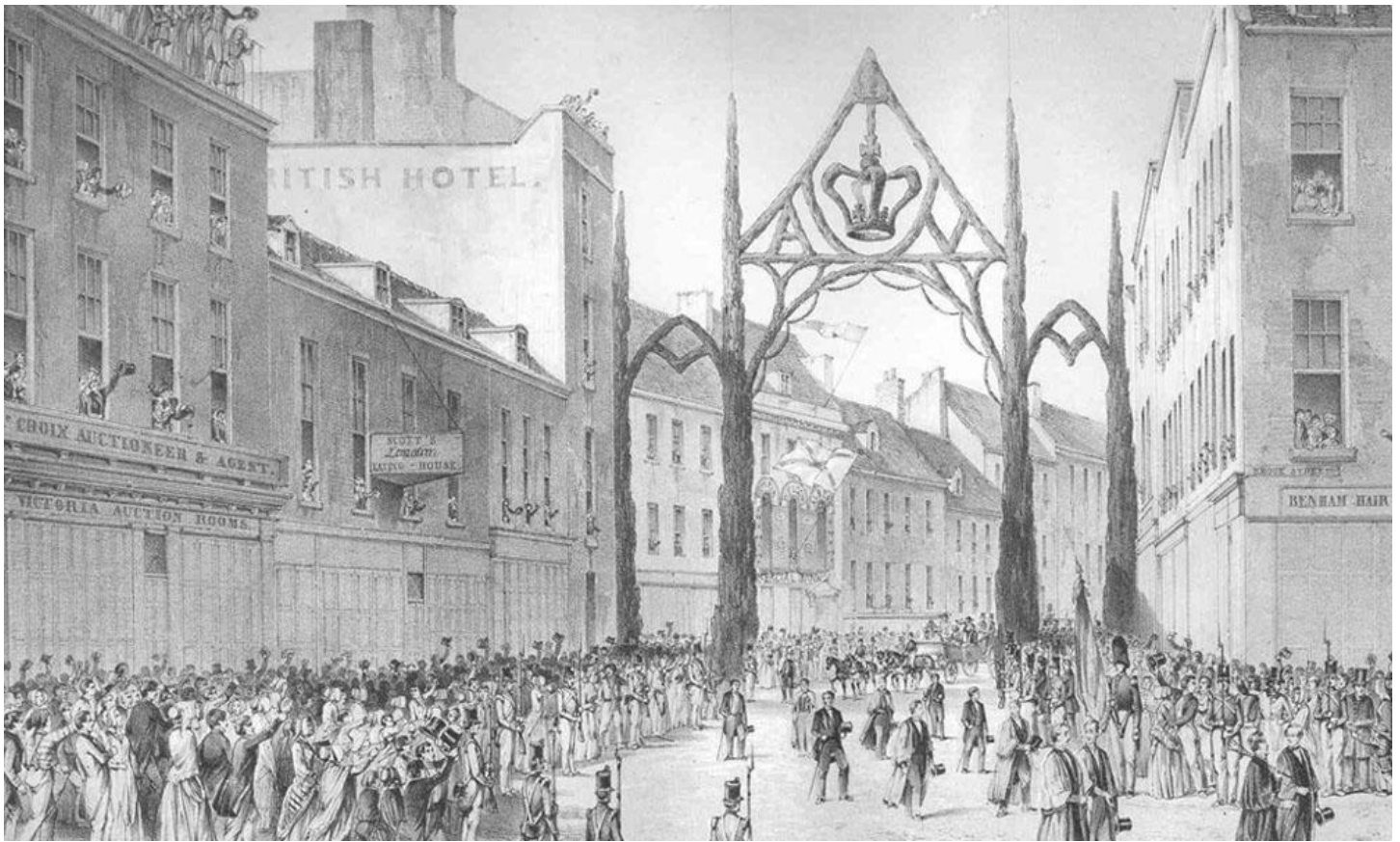


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